

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09173 232013Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DODE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 L-03 ARAE-00

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P R 231943Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 980

INFO DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9173

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS OVIP BEXP

SUBJ: LOPEZ STATE VISIT: ACQUISITION OF AIRCRAFT FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT

1. EMB WAS VISITED SEP 23 BY LOCKHEED REP IN COLOMBIA, WHO STATED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSION OF ANTI DRUG PROGRAM DURING STATE VISIT, LOPEZ INTENDS TO ASK US FOR USED C-130-H AIRCRAFT AND BELL HELICOPTERS. LOCKHEED REP ADDED CONFIDENTIALLY THAT GOC HAS GIVEN LOPEZ AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST A \$30 MILLION DOD LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF TWO NEW C-130 HERCULES AIRCRAFT AND SEVERAL NEW HELICOPTERS, BUT THAT LOPEZ DOES NOT INTEND TO USE OR REVEAL SUCH AUTHORITY IF US IS WILLING TO GRANT USED AIRCRAFT. IN ADDITION TO EXPRESSING LOCKHEED'S DESIRE TO SELL SUCH AIRCRAFT, LOCKHEED REP ADDED THAT SEVERAL HIGH RANKING OFFICERS IN COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES DISAPPROVE OF LOPEZ'S PREFERENCE FOR A GRANT OF USED AIRCRAFT, SINCE THEY FEEL A PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT WOULD BE BETTER OVER THE LONG RUN.

2. THE REP STATED THAT HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN WITH LOCKHEED'S US HQS REGARDING THIS MATTER. HE SAID THAT LOPEZ' AUTHORITY TO REQUEST THE DOD LOAN HAD PASSED THROUGH THE NATIONAL PLANNING DEPT., THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, THE ARMED FORCES AND THE MINISTRIES OF TREASURY AND DEF, BUT THAT IT IS A CONFIDENTIAL MATTER AND SHOULD BE HANDLED DISCREETLY. DREXLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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